closures, simply melt away

There are members of the Liberal caucus who are not at all comfortable with what Dalton McGuinty has done, either because they're ethically opposed or because they're hearing from constituents. But where are the potential leadership candidates? Why have we heard nothing from them? Are the Ontario Liberals so wanting for leadership that no one will come out and say that the legislature needs to get back to work? Why is it left to the opposition parties?

Someone in the Liberal caucus needs to step up to the plate.

Steve Soloman, Toronto

Big-boy story time

Absent from the litany of devastating consequences of Jeffrey Delisle's perfidy is any indication that those of us not involved in the spying game will notice anything as a result (Confessions Of A Traitor With A Broken Heart – Oct. 23). We read that some players in the game might have been exposed, and that the other teams now might spurn our team.

But the overwhelming message is that John le Carré was right in his cynical view of "intelligence" matters – that they matter only to the players, who spend careers swapping useless information, and stories about each other.

Douglas P. Wiens, Edmonton

Food-chain safety

The tainted-eggs crisis that broke out in 1988 in the British food chain exposed the laissez-faire inadequacy of Conservative stewardship. The problems at XL Foods expose a similar dependence on ideology over practical management of the food chain – and likely much else – and the abrogation of what surely must be one of the most basic duties of any government (Bad Meat Is Your Problem – Life, Oct. 9).

The core issue remains the same: ideology trumping good sense and a hundred years of advances in basic sanitation.

David Weatherston, Toronto

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The lesson of XL isn't that business comes first, but that science comes last. If we irradiated food, there wouldn't be an E. coli problem – and I could have a medium rare hamburger instead of a hockey puck for a meal in Ontario.

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